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20 January 2022

Dear representatives,

I am writing to you regarding the arrangements for the fortieth session of UNCITRAL Working Group VI (Judicial Sale of Ships), which will take place from 7 to 11 February 2022.

As agreed by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session last year (see [A/76/17](#), para. 248), the arrangements regarding the format, officers and methods of work which applied to the last session of the Working Group also apply to the upcoming session. Accordingly, I have the honour to continue serving as Chair of the Working Group at the session. I am also pleased to confirm that Mr. Vikum de Abrew (Sri Lanka) will continue serving as Rapporteur.

Arrangements are being made by the UNCITRAL secretariat to allow delegations to participate in person at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and remotely via an online platform. The current arrangements are as follows:

1. There will be two 2-hour meetings per day during the session from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. New York time (Eastern Standard Time, UTC -5).
2. Simultaneous interpretation in all official languages of the United Nations will be provided for both in-person and remote participants.
3. The venue for in-person participation is conference room 4. Due to restrictions currently in place at the United Nations Headquarters, in-person participation is limited to State representatives. Participants should contact the relevant Permanent Mission in New York for assistance in entering the premises. In-person participation may be subject to further restrictions depending on the situation at Headquarters.
4. The platform for remote participation is Zoom (not the Interprefy platform, as used for previous sessions). Connection details will be communicated to registered participants in due course. The platform can **only** be accessed with a Zoom account; remote participants can use an existing account or sign up for a new account at <https://zoom.us/signup>.
5. It is crucial for remote participants to ensure that the “display name” for the Zoom account is updated before the session according to the following naming convention: **State or organization that the participant represents_first name_last name** (for example, “UNCITRAL_Jane_Smith”).

A provisional agenda for the session has been prepared ([A/CN.9/WG.VI/WP.93](#)) and is available on the Working Group VI page of the UNCITRAL website: https://uncitral.un.org/working_groups/6/sale_ships.

If I do not receive any objection or alternative proposals by 24 January 2022, the agenda will be considered adopted at the beginning of the session (item 2 of the provisional agenda).

At the session, I propose that the Working Group continue the article-by-article read through of the draft convention that it commenced at its last session (see [A/CN.9/1089](#)), starting from article 6. The secretariat has prepared a fifth revision of the “Beijing Draft” ([A/CN.9/WG.VI/WP.94](#)), which revises articles 1 to 5 and Appendix I to reflect the deliberations and decisions of the Working Group at that session. For the most part, the provisions of article 6 onwards remain unchanged in the fifth revision, although some have been revised in light of the deliberations of the Working Group at its last session. The secretariat is also preparing a note on the final clauses, which will be circulated among delegates as a conference room paper.

I would urge delegations to make written submissions in advance of the session to facilitate deliberations during the session. Submissions should be made by email to the secretary of the Working Group (Mr. José Angelo Estrella-Faria, joseangelo.estrella-faria@un.org) at least two weeks in advance of the session in order to be translated into the other official languages of the United Nations. Several delegations made written submissions in advance of the last session on the previous (fourth) revision of the draft; unless I receive an objection or revised submission from the delegation concerned, I propose to continue to make those submissions available for the upcoming session. I will make efforts to ensure that submissions are adequately reflected in our deliberations and in the summary.

Finally, the secretariat is exploring the possibility of making audio recordings of each meeting during the session available to representatives as they become available. Details on accessing those recordings will be communicated to registered participants in due course. I have also asked the secretariat to circulate the daily summary of deliberations and conclusions to representatives as soon as it is available in all official languages. I acknowledge that delegations participating remotely, in particular those in very distant time zones, may experience difficulties in participating in the session, and encourage any delegation experiencing difficulties to consider sharing prepared statements with the secretariat (by email to joseangelo.estrella-faria@un.org) so that they can be read out during the session on its behalf. The secretariat will continue exploring other measures to further reduce the inconvenience of remote participation during the session.

I look forward to our discussions.

Yours sincerely,



Beate Czerwenka

Chair

UNCITRAL Working Group VI